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## 4. Management Goals & Objectives

The primary aim in managing Cypress Island is to preserve, restore and enhance ecological systems, scenic landscapes and habitat for Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species.

To achieve this aim, the following goals have been adopted. Goals one through five are taken from the NRCA Act (RCW 79.71) and goal six from the Archaeological Sites and Resources Act (RCW 27.53). Goals one through six and their associated objectives are consistent with the goals of the Aquatic Reserves Program and applicable to the aquatic reserve. Goal seven and eight meet the specific goals of the Aquatic Reserves Program and the management of the Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve. These two goals are formulated to emphasize the conservation of critical habitats and associated species identified in Appendix D.

Objectives are a product of the research, analysis, advisory committee meetings, and public input of the Cypress Island management planning process. These objectives are unique to the management of Cypress Island and are referenced in the management plan.

### **Goal One: Maintain, enhance, and restore ecological systems Objectives**

- 1.1 Protect natural processes that promote region-wide biological diversity in the island's marine and terrestrial environments.
- 1.2 Rely upon, and avoid interference with, those natural processes that result in the restoration and maintenance of natural conditions, native habitats, and native species diversity.
- 1.3 Restore or enhance those disturbed areas that are degraded.
- 1.4 Designate areas containing outstanding examples of native biological communities as Highly Sensitive areas under this plan.
- 1.5 Closely monitor public use and DNR activities for effects on natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Where impacts are inconsistent with program goals, change or restrict use/activity. Enhance or restore sites where necessary.
- 1.6 Place administrative and public use facilities in a manner that minimizes habitat fragmentation and interference with natural processes.

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- 1.7 Continue to acquire private property for conservation purposes from willing sellers within and adjacent to the NRCA boundary.

## **Goal Two: Maintain exceptional scenic landscapes**

### **Objectives**

- 2.1 Design public use sites and facilities to retain the natural appearance of the site.
- 2.2 Plan management activities and site development to minimize visual impacts as viewed from surrounding islands, aerial and water locations, and the mainland.

## **Goal Three: Maintain habitat for Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive (ET&S) species**

### **Objectives**

- 3.1 Give high priority to inventory, enhancement, and protection of ET&S habitat, as dictated by federal law, state legislative mandates, and DNR policy goals.
- 3.2 Designate known and potential habitat for Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive species as Highly Sensitive areas under this plan
- 3.3 Routinely survey Cypress Island for ET&S and associated habitat and following any new listings.
- 3.4 Invite other agencies, tribes, and organizations with appropriate expertise to work cooperatively in the inventory, monitoring, and management of native species.
- 3.5 Use site restoration and enhancement to encourage re-establishment of plants and animals native to Cypress Island and surrounding tidelands and bedlands.

## **Goal Four: Provide opportunities for low-impact public use**

### **Objectives**

- 4.1 Provide the public with reasonable access to a sample of the outstanding vistas and natural areas within the NRCA.
- 4.2 Develop public use facilities to avoid degradation or impacts to identified sensitive resources, rare habitats, and contiguous forest. Concentrate public use (sites, trails, signs) in Minimally Sensitive Areas (see Section 5.2).
- 4.3 Develop and maintain public use sites and trails in a manner that protects neighboring private property, the NAP, and the natural and scenic values of the NRCA.
- 4.4 Establish and enforce public use at a level that does not detract from natural, scenic, and sensitive resource protection goals.
- 4.5 Discourage inappropriate public uses and use-levels at Cypress Island.

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## **Goal Five: Provide opportunities for outdoor environmental education**

### **Objectives**

- 5.1 Place interpretive signing at main entry points and in high-use areas in the NRCA.
- 5.2 Use education facilities to inform the public of outstanding ecological, geologic, cultural, and historic components of the island. Consult with local Tribes in developing interpretive materials that address culturally sensitive resources/topics.
- 5.3 Use interpretive information to convey a conservation ethic and enhance respect for the island's resources and the purpose of protecting them.
- 5.4 Present use restrictions and regulations within the context of environmental education.

## **Goal Six: Identify and protect cultural resources in the NRCA**

### **Objectives**

- 6.1 Survey the NRCA for archeological deposits and cultural resources (completed, 1991). Consult with a professional archaeologist on any new discoveries.
- 6.2 Manage registered cultural sites in consultation with local Tribes to emphasize on-site protection using excavation as a last resort.
- 6.3 Work closely with local Tribes and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to identify and protect as yet unknown sites.

## **Goal Seven: Identify aquatic habitats and associated plant and wildlife species, with special emphasis on rocky reef habitat, pocket beaches, kelp, and eelgrass beds.**

### **Objectives**

- 7.1 Develop an initial baseline inventory through a "rapid shoreline inventory" of aquatic habitat and species that utilize the area of the reserve.
- 7.2 Develop ongoing monitoring plans to evaluate the condition of aquatic resources identified for conservation.
- 7.3 Survey sites that appear to have suitable habitat for surf smelt or sand lance spawning and verify if spawning activity occurs at these sites.
- 7.4 Develop appropriate management actions to protect identified spawning areas.

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**Goal Eight: Preserve, restore, and enhance the functions and natural processes of nearshore and subtidal ecosystems of the aquatic reserve.**

**Objectives**

- 8.1 Maintain the existing low levels of alteration to Cypress Island's aquatic areas.
- 8.2 Maintain management actions that support the Cypress Island Marine Biological Reserve (RCW 28B.20.320; see section 2.8).
- 8.3 Inventory and remove derelict creosote piles, other derelict structures, and debris from Cypress Island's beaches, in consultation with Natural Areas Program westside ecologist and region natural areas and aquatics managers.
- 8.4 Establish a management plan for private and public mooring buoys on state-owned aquatic lands that minimizes impacts to aquatic habitat, particularly eelgrass.